

**Amendment to and Listing of the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 2, 7-14 and 16 without prejudice. Please amend claims 1, 3-6, 15 and 17-20, wherein strikethrough indicates a deletion and underline indicates an addition, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A microfluidic component comprising a laminated assembly comprising a substrate and a top plate, where the substrate and the top plate define therebetween ~~minimum of one~~ a first collection chamber having a pump disposed therein, ~~and a minimum of at least two~~ connection channels connected to the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber, and at least two valves, each valve located within one of the at least two connection channels.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 1 further comprising a ~~minimum of two additional separated~~ at least two additional collection chambers defined between the substrate and the top plate ~~one each~~, each of the additional collection chambers being connected to one of the connection channels at an end ~~of each of the minimum of two connection channels~~ opposite the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber.

4. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 1 wherein the ~~minimum of at least two~~ connection channels is four connection channels.

5. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 4 wherein the four connection channels are each connected to a second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated~~ collection chamber[s] respectively, the second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated~~ collection chambers defined between the substrate and the top plate.

6. (Currently Amended) The microfluidic component of claim 1 wherein the ~~minimum of at least two~~ connection channels is at least four connection channels.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a microfluidic component comprising:

providing a microfluidic component comprising a laminated assembly comprising a substrate and a top plate, where the substrate and the top plate define therebetween ~~minimum of one~~ a first collection chamber having a pump disposed therein, ~~and a minimum of at least two~~

connection channels connected to the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber, and at least two valves, each valve located within one of the at least two connection channels;

introducing a fluid into the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber; and

pumping the fluid from the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber into the ~~minimum of~~ at least two connection channels.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the microfluidic component further comprises ~~a minimum of two additional separated~~ at least two additional collection chambers defined between the substrate and the top plate ~~one each, each of the additional collection chambers being~~ connected to one of the connection channels at an end ~~of each of the minimum of two connection channels~~ opposite the ~~minimum of one~~ first collection chamber.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~minimum of at least two~~ connection channels is four connection channels.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the four connection channels are each connected to a second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated~~ collection chamber[[s]] respectively, the second, third, fourth and fifth ~~four additional separated~~ collection chambers defined between the substrate and the top plate.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~minimum of at least two~~ connection channels is at least four connection channels.